

Hello,

I am writing to request that you vote no on HB 5263. While the rest of the U.S. has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, Connecticut will take a huge step backwards with this initiative. Rabbits are the third most common household pet in the US after dogs and cats, with many pet supply stores no longer selling them as pets, but rather only offering them to be rescued for adoption. Additionally, the multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been actively moving away from using rabbits in their cruel testing programs due to consumer pressure – and regulations to ban animal testing are currently being considered at the federal level.

This proposal will bring factory-like farming of rabbits to our state. However, the majority of the nearly 10 billion land-based animals farmed for food each year in the U.S. live in unacceptable conditions that do not align with consumers' values. Animals are not the only ones suffering because of these unnatural, inhumane conditions. Consumers, rural communities, farmers, workers and the environment are being hurt by the intensive farming systems employed on factory farms.

Because of these inhumane reasons, please vote no on HB 5263 and prevent the factory-like farming of rabbits in Connecticut. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Renee Traynor
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